United Nations E/CN.5/2003/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 October 2002

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-first session
10-21 February 2003
Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Programme questions and other matters:
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-first session the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2001 and 2002.

Summary

The present report covers the activities of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in 2001 and 2002. It is submitted to the Commission for Social Development in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/126 of 1 August 1963, in which it is stipulated that the Board of the Institute should, inter alia, submit regularly to the Commission "a progress report on the work of the Institute".

In addition to work within its ongoing research programme, UNRISD organized a number of special events to inform the international development community and policy makers of its research findings. The Institute contributed to the special session of the General Assembly on Istanbul+5, commissioned numerous studies and organized a parallel event in conjunction with the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, jointly organized a

* E/CN.5/2003/1.

02-65676 (E) 151102

conference with the Ford Foundation on rethinking development economics, contributed to the Second World Assembly on Ageing by organizing a parallel conference and contributed to the World Summit on Sustainable Development via a joint conference with the University of the Witwatersrand. Finally, UNRISD pursued a special initiative aimed at improving research and knowledge on social development in international organizations by commissioning four papers on globalization and equity and holding a meeting of high-level United Nations officials on this theme.

During the reporting period, there was considerable progress in a range of projects carried out under four of the main themes that structure the UNRISD research programme: social policy and development; democracy, governance and human rights; civil society and social movements; and technology, business and society. Calling attention to these overarching concerns allows the Institute to make a coherent and policy-relevant presentation of research findings from its projects and reinforces the synergies among projects. The presentation of UNRISD research in the present report is organized under these four programmes.

In addition to their research and administrative activities, UNRISD staff carry out a range of advisory tasks for United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and universities.

Through its research findings and outputs, UNRISD aims to stimulate debate on a wide range of questions and challenges of social development. To carry out its agenda, the Institute must communicate this information to United Nations policy makers, government officials, university professors and students, regional intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, journalists and civil society in general. In 2001-2002, the Institute's web site was the focus of much attention and underwent a comprehensive redevelopment. A steady output of publications was also maintained and these were made available at many relevant events worldwide.

In 2001-2002, 21 outstanding young scholars from 16 countries contributed to UNRISD through their work as research assistants.

The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom provide core funding to UNRISD. The level of core funding rose during the reporting period, as has the level of project funding, although the latter is still insufficient and must be increased.

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2001-2002

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–4	5
II.	Special events and activities	5–16	5
	A. Istanbul+5	5–6	5
	B. Racism and public policy	7–9	6
	C. The need to rethink development economics	10	6
	D. Second World Assembly on Ageing	11–12	7
	E. World Summit on Sustainable Development	13–14	7
	F. Improving research and knowledge on social development in international organizations	15–16	7
III.	Current programme of research	17–56	8
	A. Social policy and development	17–33	8
	1. Social policy in a development context	17–23	8
	2. Neoliberalism and institutional reform in East Asia	24–25	9
	3. Agrarian change, gender and land rights	26–27	9
	4. Globalization, export-oriented employment for women and social policy	28–30	10
	5. HIV/AIDS and development	31–33	11
	B. Programme on technology, business and society	34–41	11
	1. Business responsibility for sustainable development	34–37	11
	2. Information technologies and social development	38–41	12
	C. Programme on civil society and social movements	42–46	14
	1. Civil society strategies and movements for rural asset redistribution and improved livelihoods	42–43	14
	2. Evolving agricultural structures and civil society in transitional countries: the case of Central Asia	44–46	14
	D. Programme on democracy, governance and human rights	47–56	15
	1. Technocratic, policy-making and democratization	47–50	15
	2. Public sector reform and crisis-ridden States	51–52	16
	3. Ethnic structure, inequality and governance of the public sector	53–56	16
IV.	Advisory work	57–58	17

V. Outreach: publications and dissemination 59–62 17
VI. Research assistants and graduate student programme 63–64 18
VII. Financial situation 65–66 19

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) was established in 1963 with a mandate "to conduct research into problems and policies of social development and relationships between various types of social development and economic development during different phases of economic growth". Early emphasis on the measurement of social development and on analysis of the relation between social and economic development was broadened during the 1970s and 1980s, when UNRISD took up questions of inequality, discrimination and participation in development processes.

2. During the 1990s, UNRISD became more involved in applied research and increased its efforts to make findings accessible to the international development community. The Institute participated actively in the global conferences of that decade, sponsoring numerous events in order to foster meaningful dialogue among policy makers, civil society organizations, scholars and donors.

3. In the new millennium, UNRISD continues to promote a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to social development research, emphasizing the complex and often subtle nature of decision-making processes, as well as the multifaceted social impact of development processes and policies. It is doing so through the projects it carries out under its research programme, the organization of conferences and events and an active outreach strategy.

4. More information on all activities is presented below, beginning with an overview of UNRISD special events. Publications issued by UNRISD or in conjunction with commercial and academic presses are listed in the footnotes to the present report.

II. Special events and activities

A. Istanbul+5

5. In the run-up to Habitat II in 1996, UNRISD and the United Nations Volunteers commissioned studies to assess how collaboration between community activists and local authorities could contribute to lasting improvement in the livelihoods of low-income and marginalized groups in Chicago and East St. Louis (United States), Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam), Jinja (Uganda), Johannesburg (South Africa), Lima, Mumbai (India) and São Paulo (Brazil). The case studies showed that many such collaborative efforts were fragile, fraught with conflict and difficult to sustain.

6. Since then, the global urban crisis has deepened. Many blame globalization, which concentrates wealth and socio-economic disparities in the largest cities. This theme was examined by UNRISD in its contribution to the special session of the General Assembly on Istanbul+5. UNRISD invited the researchers and community activists to update their case studies on the collaborations they had been monitoring

since 1996. They presented a synthesis of their findings in a public meeting at United Nations Headquarters in June 2001.[1]

B. Racism and public policy

7. UNRISD contributed to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in September 2001 by inviting 40 scholars to prepare papers and lead discussions at a parallel conference. More than 500 representatives of Governments, international agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and the media attended the meeting.

8. The UNRISD conference provided participants with research findings, insights and reviews of policy debates on some of the core issues of racism, xenophobia and intolerance as they affect different groups, countries and regions. It examined the opportunities, problems and challenges of public policies devised for overcoming racist and xenophobic practices in different settings, focusing on four broad themes: the social construction of race and citizenship; the social dynamics of racism and inequality; organized responses to cultural diversity; and the impact of public policies on race relations.

9. Two important public policy issues were highlighted throughout the three days of discussions: the complex ways racial cleavages influence the evolution of citizenship, especially in countries with deep ethnoracial divisions; and the promotion of social justice and equitable governance, a fundamental requirement for achieving stability and consolidating the values of citizenship.[2]

C. The need to rethink development economics

10. This joint UNRISD/Ford Foundation conference in September 2001 brought together 29 economists and academics from across the world with the goal of reviving development economics, not as a "deviant" branch of mainstream economics, but as a discipline that can improve our understanding of the acute problems faced by developing countries.[3] Concern was raised about the low visibility of development research taking place in developing countries and the need to produce a new generation of development economists. As such, a concrete outcome of the conference was the establishment, by some of the participants, of International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs), an international research undertaking independent of UNRISD. IDEAs aims to build a pluralist network of heterodox economists engaged in the teaching, research and application of critical analyses of economic development.

---

[1] Some of the studies may be published as UNRISD Programme Papers and brought together in an edited volume.

[2] See *Conference News: Racism and Public Policy*, Report of the UNRISD International Conference (3-5 September 2001, Durban), 2002. Several papers are forthcoming as UNRISD Programme Papers and an edited volume is being reviewed for publication.

[3] A report is forthcoming in the UNRISD *Conference News* series.

D. Second World Assembly on Ageing

11. UNRISD contributed to the Second World Assembly on Ageing in April 2002 by organizing a parallel event on ageing, development and social protection. To highlight some of the key issues in this field, UNRISD invited 18 social scientists and gerontologists to prepare papers and lead discussions.

12. Contributions to the UNRISD conference addressed the dynamics and challenges of population ageing in contexts of rapid social change as well as situations of social crisis, examined responses to population ageing through formal social protection, informal care and intergenerational exchange and reflected on current research and debates on issues related to ageing and development as they affect different social groups (including the non-elderly), regions and countries.[4]

E. World Summit on Sustainable Development

13. The UNRISD contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development took the form of a parallel event, co-hosted with the University of the Witwatersrand in September 2002, on the political economy of sustainable development: environmental conflict, participation and movements.

14. At the UNRISD conference, researchers, activists and policy makers discussed the ongoing deterioration in the world's social and environmental conditions and raised serious questions regarding both the analysis and proposals associated with mainstream policy documents (including Agenda 21). They concluded that part of the problem has to do with the failure of policy makers to address adequately the contradictions between economic, social and environmental aspects of development, inequalities in social and North-South relations, conflicts of interest and values, and the social forces and alliances that need to be in place to promote change and institutional reform.[5]

F. Improving research and knowledge on social development in international organizations

15. Institutions in the United Nations system play a central role in research on development. Nevertheless, the leadership of the United Nations — not only in generating data and policy advice, but also in shaping the ideas and norms that must guide work in the field of world development — has been severely challenged during the past several decades.

16. In order to counter this trend, UNRISD is encouraging in-depth discussion among a small group of high-level United Nations officials, concerned with research on social development.[6] The Institute commissioned four papers in 2001 which

[4] A report is forthcoming in the UNRISD *Conference News* series. Some papers will be published as UNRISD Programme Papers and the full set will be brought together in an edited volume.

[5] For the event, UNRISD published *People, Power and the Environment: 15 Years of UNRISD Research*, which synthesizes its research and provides an annotated bibliography of its publications on this subject.

[6] See *Conference News: Improving Knowledge on Social Development in International Organizations*. Report of the UNRISD Seminar (7-8 November 2000, Bellagio), 2001.

examine the conceptual framework of globalization and equity, the statistical underpinnings for analysis of globalization and equity, changing patterns of resource distribution at the international level, and the politics of economic globalization. They served as background material for a two-day seminar held in Prangins, Switzerland, in May 2002.[7]

III. Current programme of research

A. Social policy and development

1. Social policy in a development context

17. One of the greatest challenges in development policy is the edification of a State-society nexus that is developmental (in that it facilitates and promotes economic growth and structural transformation), democratic (in that it derives its legitimacy through popular participation and electoral processes) and socially inclusive (in that it pursues social policies that provide equitable entitlements for all citizens and ensure decent inclusion in societal affairs). This project provides a framework for interdisciplinary debate on the relation between social policy, social and political institutions and economic development.[8]

18. It comprises four independent (though substantively related) components: macroeconomics and social policy; social policy in late industrializers; democratization and social policy; and globalization and social policy. In 2001-2002, UNRISD pursued intensive fund-raising efforts for the project, fully elaborated the four components and identified research coordinators. The project is scheduled to continue through 2005.

19. Component one questions the abstract boundaries that exist among "economic", "social" and "political" issues. It highlights how political forces, social objectives, institutional characteristics and ideological struggles underpin "technical" economic policy choices. If financial constraints are socially and politically malleable, it should be possible to build a socially egalitarian macroeconomic agenda — one that locates the pursuit of social objectives, such as the enhancement of social equity, at the heart of economic policy while fulfilling macroeconomic goals.

20. A policy framework that is both developmental and socially egalitarian is not merely a theoretical possibility — it has been accomplished, with varying degrees of success, historically. Component two thus delves into historical trajectories of "late development" and the institutions of social policy in diverse regional settings: East Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Nordic countries and the Middle East and Arab region.

---

[7] The report of the second meeting is forthcoming as an issue of *Conference News*; the commissioned papers are forthcoming as UNRISD Programme Papers and in an edited volume.

[8] For a report on the conference that launched the project, see *Conference News: Social Policy in a Development Context*, Report of the UNRISD International Conference (23-24 September 2000, Tammsvik), 2001. The project background paper is Thandika Mkandawire, *Social Policy in a Development Context*, PPSPD 7, 2001.

21. In contrast to the Nordic experience, which was driven by social-democratic politics, the North-East Asian model thrived in essentially authoritarian contexts. Do the agendas of different social actors and the developmental trajectories of countries today point to the possibility of arriving at State-society relations that facilitate and promote developmental goals, social inclusion and democracy? Component three seeks to answer this question on the basis of evidence from comparative case studies.

22. The fourth component explores the impact of globalization on social policy provision. This is being carried out in two separate projects dealing with health policy and gender issues, respectively. The first seeks to develop feasible policies for inclusive health care in contexts where globalization and commercialization are constraining the capacity of health care systems to reverse processes of impoverishment and exclusion through redistributive measures. The second will shed light on some of the gender-related impediments to reaching a State-society nexus that is socially inclusive, democratic and developmental.

23. Component four is closely related to another initiative, undertaken by UNRISD in conjunction with the Institut universitaire d'études du développement and the universities of Geneva and Lausanne, on health care commercialization and inequality in health. Case studies have been commissioned in Bulgaria, Mali, South Africa, Viet Nam and the canton of Geneva (Switzerland).

2. Neoliberalism and institutional reform in East Asia

24. The premise of this project was that the crisis of 1997-1998 forced widespread structural revamping in the conduct of politics and management of the region's economies. The process of restructuring has not been swift or comprehensive, however, as the States and vested interests in East Asia selectively adopted, partially imitated, or fought off the changes that the world financial communities and international financial institutions sought to foster in their political economies. It is clear that the crisis marked the end of an era of rapid development and the beginning of an era of transition, but towards what new end?

25. The project, which concluded in 2002 with the preparation of an edited volume containing 10 case studies, critically examined the different aspects of the policies that came to prevail during and after the crisis, and the consequences of these policies for East Asian societies. These policies relate broadly to the issue of governance: the nature of the legal system, political institutions (the role of Government and industrial policy for economic development), private institutions (corporate governance) and labour markets.[9]

3. Agrarian change, gender and land rights

26. This project examines recent shifts in policy thinking about land rights — both in general and as they relate to women's access to land — juxtaposed against recent developments in land tenure arrangements in selected regional contexts. In 2001-2002, desk studies and field research were completed in Brazil, South Africa and Uzbekistan, as was a regional study of sub-Saharan Africa (with a focus on Ghana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe).

[9] The volume is being reviewed for publication.

27. The research on Brazil offers insights into how women's rights have been integrated into the process of agrarian reform. The South Africa study analyses policy shifts in the country's land reform programme and traces how national gender policy has been carried through in KwaZulu Natal province. The Uzbekistan research examines the historical place of land in the political economy of the country and the nature and meaning of agrarian reform there. The regional study on sub-Saharan Africa considers the growth of land markets and the experience of land tenure reform, looks at local-level systems of land tenure, identifies some of the main protagonists in current debates about land, and about women and land, and sets out the main elements of the analysis and prescriptions that each is making.[10]

4. Globalization, export-oriented employment for women and social policy

28. This project had two interrelated objectives. First, it explored the impact of trade liberalization on female employment in selected countries. While there have been critiques of the impact of structural adjustment policies on women in developing countries, observers tend to be more optimistic about how trade liberalization affects female employment. There is a widespread perception in the North that trade liberalization has shifted much global manufacturing production to the South; the effects of such global integration on workers in the South have generally been taken as positive and women workers have been considered "winners", given their overwhelming presence in export-oriented industries. Project findings question this scenario.

29. Secondly, the project analysed the relationship between women's labour market participation and social policy design and delivery. It examined the extent to which changes in social provisions have responded to women's increased labour force participation in a range of countries pursuing diverse development strategies and industrial policies.

30. This project drew to a close in 2001-2002 with the completion of seven country studies commissioned under the project (China, Hungary, India, Mauritius, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and South Africa), along with two regional studies (East Asia and a comparative analysis of Europe and North America) and one paper exploring foreign direct investment flows and employment effects in developing and transitional countries.[11]

---

[10] Several of the studies are being published as UNRISD Programme Papers: Cherryl Walker, *Agrarian Change, Gender and Land Reform: A South African Case Study*, PPSPD 10, 2002; Deniz Kandiyoti, *Agrarian Reform, Gender and Land Rights in Uzbekistan*, PPSPD 11, 2002; Utsa Patnaik, *Global Capitalism and Agrarian Crisis in Developing Countries*, PPSPD 14, 2002; Julia Guivant, *Gender and Land Rights in Brazil*, forthcoming. The *Journal of Agrarian Change* will devote a double special issue to the findings of this project (forthcoming). Additionally, FAO asked UNRISD to prepare a policy brief on this subject. Related work was published in an edited volume: Shahra Razavi (ed.), *Shifting Burdens: Gender and Agrarian Change under Neoliberalism* (Kumarian Press, 2002).

[11] Two studies were published as UNRISD Programme Papers: Ann Shola Orloff, *Women's Employment and Welfare Regimes: Globalization, Export Orientation and Social Policy in Europe and North America*, PPSPD 12, 2002; Gillian Hart, *Reworking Apartheid Legacies: Global Competition, Gender and Social Wages in South Africa, 1980-2000*, PPSPD 13, 2002. An edited volume containing all the studies is being reviewed for publication.

5. HIV/AIDS and development

31. The spread of HIV/AIDS is an indicator of the failure to create more equitable and prosperous societies over large parts of the world. The situation is worst where poverty is extensive, gender inequality is pervasive and public services are weak. While efforts to combat the disease have tended to focus on biomedical and behavioural solutions, concern with broader socio-economic and political issues is growing.

32. In 2001, UNRISD developed a comparative research project on HIV/AIDS. If funding is secured, the Institute will form multidisciplinary teams (including social scientists, public health staff and activists) to conduct policy-oriented research on the socio-economic, cultural and political factors that favour or impede the spread of HIV/AIDS in up to 10 heavily affected countries and localities.

33. Also in 2001, UNRISD commissioned eight papers that look at the links between development policies and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in specific Third World settings. The papers show how grass-roots organizations, communities and local governments have attempted to improve the socio-economic and political context for prevention and treatment, while mitigating the devastating effects of the pandemic on local societies. The collection includes studies on links between tourism policy and HIV/AIDS in Cuba, sex trafficking and vulnerability to disease in southern Asia and links between the drug trade, the prison population and HIV/AIDS in Myanmar and Malaysia.[12]

B. Programme on technology, business and society

1. Business responsibility for sustainable development

34. While various pressures and market opportunities are encouraging some firms to improve their environmental and social record, this process remains fragmented. It is spread unevenly among companies, sectors and countries and, from the perspective of sustainable development, it is fraught with contradictions. Current wisdom suggests that the best way to promote corporate responsibility is to rely on voluntary initiatives and partnerships. Despite their obvious appeal, such institutional arrangements also carry with them inherent dangers, not least the

[12] Three of the commissioned papers are being published as UNRISD Programme Papers: Geoff Foster, *Understanding Community Responses to the Situation of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS*, PPSPD, forthcoming; Vidya Shah, Beverly Brar and Sonam Yangchen Rana, *Layers of Silence: Women's Vulnerability, Trafficking and HIV/AIDS in South Asia*, PPSPD, forthcoming; Wassana Im-em and Gary Suwannarat, *Response to AIDS at Individual, Household and Community Levels in Thailand*, PPSPD, forthcoming. Six of the papers are being published in a special issue of *SIDA Studies* (Stockholm, forthcoming).

possibility that they will be used as a poor substitute for stronger forms of regulation necessary to improve the environmental and social performance of big business.[13]

35. In 2001-2002, research examined the role of "voluntary initiatives" in promoting corporate social responsibility and the social and environmental impact of business activities in Brazil, India, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines and South Africa.[14] The project examines the extent to which company claims associated with environmental and social responsibility have been matched by actual practice. It also looks at the institutional, social, political and market conditions under which companies are adopting significant measures to improve their environmental and social performance, which types of voluntary initiatives have proved most effective in improving the environmental and social record of business and whether voluntary initiatives can be considered an appropriate alternative to mandatory regulation. This work identifies the main actors and institutions promoting socially responsible changes in business policy and practice and assesses the scope and substance of corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in the six countries.

36. In addition to country-level research, thematic reports were prepared on "partnerships" between multilateral organizations and large corporations, international "multistakeholder" initiatives associated with CSR standard-setting and certification and the influence of the "corporate accountability movement".[15]

37. In late 2002, UNAIDS commissioned a work from UNRISD on how the global HIV/AIDS pandemic is affecting business — especially in labour-intensive industries in the developing countries. UNRISD is surveying the 100 largest non-financial transnational corporations (ranked by foreign assets) in order to identify their policies and practices on HIV/AIDS. Case studies of "best practices" and "poor practices" in select countries in different regions will also be carried out. The results will be provided to the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS.

2. Information technologies and social development

38. This project considers the implications of new information and communication technologies for social, economic and political development. In 2001-2002, UNRISD fostered debate on directions of change in the global context that shape development options and concluded a wide-ranging study in Senegal.

39. UNRISD commissioned a set of studies that analyse the international institutional setting in which information technology policies are discussed and

---

[13] Previous work on this subject gave rise to the following publications during this reporting period: Peter Utting (ed.), *The Greening of Business in Developing Countries: Rhetoric, Reality and Prospects* (Zed Books, 2002); Rhys Jenkins, *Corporate Codes of Conduct: Self-Regulation in a Global Economy*, PPTBS 2, 2001; Martin Perry and Sanjeev Singh, *Corporate Environmental Responsibility in Singapore and Malaysia: The Potential and Limits of Voluntary Initiatives*, PPTBS 3, 2001; E.V.K. FitzGerald, *Regulating Large International Firms*, PPTBS 5, 2001; Melody Kemp, *Corporate Social Responsibility in Indonesia: Quixotic Dream or Confident Expectation?*, PPTBS 6, 2001.

[14] *Conference News: Promoting Socially Responsible Business in Developing Countries: The Potential and Limits of Voluntary Initiatives*, Report of the UNRISD Workshop (23-24 October 2000, Geneva), 2002.

[15] Peter Utting, "Regulating Business via Multistakeholder Initiatives: A Preliminary Assessment", was published in NGLS/UNRISD (eds.), *Voluntary Approaches to Corporate Responsibility: Readings and a Resource Guide (NGLS, 2002)*; Renato Alva Pino, "Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility: Selected Sources of Information", also appears in this volume.

formulated. They examine the history, structure and work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as these are related to global information technology governance issues, and they illustrate the direction of policy change at the international level, explore the dynamics of conflict and consider possible scenarios for new forms of information technology governance.[16]

40. UNRISD is also participating in preparatory work for the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003). At the request of the Summit secretariat, the Institute is a member of its advisory group. To provide background to the debates that will be taken up prior to and during the conference, UNRISD has commissioned a series of issues papers.[17]

41. Senegal was selected by UNRISD for in-depth research because it has one of the most highly developed telecommunications and information technology infrastructures in sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, in that country, recent changes have created important new openings for independent radio and television. Studies were carried out on the following themes: the implications of new information technology for growth and patterns of economic development; how information technology is being incorporated within formal private-sector enterprises; how Senegalese migrants to Europe and the United States use information technology; how information technology is being used to strengthen the religious and business interests of Mouride brotherhoods; information technology and the media; the effects of information technology on popular participation and democracy; and the way information technology is being used in secondary and higher education.[18] Findings from the Senegal research were presented at a conference held in Dakar in July 2001.[19]

---

[16] These studies were published in Seán Ó Siochrú and Bruce Girard with Amy Mahan, *Global Media Governance: A Beginners' Guide* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002). A related UNRISD Programme Paper was also published: Cynthia Hewitt de Alcántara, *The Development Divide in a Digital Age: An Issues Paper*, PPTBS 4, 2001.

[17] Two of the papers are being published as UNRISD Programme Papers: Judith Adler Hellman, *Distance Education in Developing Countries*, PPTBS, forthcoming; Robert McChesney and Dan Schiller, *Universal Access: How Important Are Liberalized Markets?*, PPTBS, forthcoming.

[18] Research results contributed to monthly newspaper supplements in the Dakar daily *Sud Quotidien*. Three of the studies are being published as UNRISD Programme Papers: Olivier Sagna. *Les technologies de l'information et de la communication et le développement social au Sénégal: un état des lieux*, PPTBS 1, 2001; Cheikh Gueye, *Enjeux et rôle des nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication dans les mutations urbaines: le cas de Touba*, PPTBS, forthcoming; Mansour Tall, *Les émigrés sénégalais face aux enjeux des nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication*, PPTBS, forthcoming. A volume bringing together all the case studies is in press: Momar-Coumba Diop, *Technologie et société: les technologies de l'information au Sénégal* (Karthala, forthcoming).

[19] See *Conférence infos: Les technologies de l'information et de la communication et le développement social au Sénégal*, Rapport de la réunion organisée par l'UNRISD (16-17 juillet 2001, Dakar), 2002.

C. Programme on civil society and social movements

1. Civil society strategies and movements for rural asset redistribution and improved livelihoods

42. This project assesses the potential of civil society organizations to promote policy changes and institutional reforms that improve living conditions in rural areas. It analyses the ambiguities and complexities inherent in the composition and action of civil society organizations in rural areas, examines how civil society organizations assist agricultural workers and other rural groups to acquire productive assets through market-assisted land transaction schemes and studies the efforts of civil society organizations to improve labour conditions and increase the political influence of traditionally weak groups.

43. Papers were commissioned in order to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the types, social bases, scale of operations, alliances, range of activities and rates of success or failure of civil society organizations working for the benefit of the rural poor. They analyse the impact of globalization on rural social movements, the ability of civil society groups to influence the debate on the role of the market in rural asset redistribution in Brazil, Egypt and the Philippines, and the tensions inherent in institutionalizing the role of peasant-based organizations. The 10 studies were completed in 2002.[20]

2. Evolving agricultural structures and civil society in transitional countries: the case of Central Asia

44. Agricultural structures are evolving rapidly in Central Asia. There has been restitution of land property rights to their holders before the 1917 revolution, the break-up of collective and State farms and the allocation of land to individuals and households, the privatization of essential support services and the development of land and labour markets. Although these processes have occurred at different paces in different countries, with some even resisting certain elements of privatization and rapid market liberalization, changes in the agricultural sector have been profound in all countries. Because the provision of extension and support services has been limited, the majority of the rural poor are finding it difficult to cope with the situation.

---

[20] The following studies were co-published: Leonilde Medeiros, *Banco da terra: Disputas em torno dos sentidos da bandeira reforma agraria*, Universadade F. R. do Rio de Janeiro, 2002; Stephan Suhner, *Resistiendo al olvido: tendencias recientes del movimiento social y de las organizaciones campesinas en Colombia*, Taurus, 2002; Olle Törnquist, *Popular Development and Democracy: Case Studies with Rural Dimensions in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Kerala*, Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo, 2002. Others are being published as UNRISD Programme Papers: Archie Mafeje, *The Agrarian Question, Access to Land and Peasant Responses in Sub-Saharan Africa*, PPCSSM, forthcoming; Ray Bush, *Civil Society and the Uncivil State: Land Tenure Reform in Egypt and the Crisis of Rural Livelihood*, PPCSSM, forthcoming. Previous work on a related theme was published in Krishna B. Ghimire and Bruce H. Moore (eds.), *Whose Land? Civil Society Perspectives on Land Reform and Rural Poverty Reduction: Regional Experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America*, Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty and IFAD, 2001; and Krishna B. Ghimire (ed.), *Land Reform and Peasant Livelihoods: The Social Dynamics of Rural Poverty and Agrarian Reform in Developing Countries*, ITDG Publishing, 2001.

45. The current discussion on institutional change in Central Asia is primarily concerned with the role of the Government and donor agencies in promoting agricultural and rural development within the framework of market-oriented policy measures. Only limited information is available on how civil society organizations are emerging in this region. What actually constitutes "civil society" in these countries in transition?

46. Research began on the following subjects in 2002: agricultural restructuring and trends in rural inequalities; the evolving role of professional organizations (youth groups, women's committees, farmers' associations) in protecting past agrarian gains and creating further opportunities for improved livelihoods; the dynamics of labour conditions and rural unionization; the monitoring and promotion of farmers' needs; the significance of the "old guard" and new political parties in representing farmers' interests; rural poverty and the emerging role of religious fundamentalism; and the role of the voluntary sector, agricultural investment and the private sector in strengthening self-help networks and solidarity within agrarian communities. These will guide further research and policy appraisals.

D. Programme on democracy, governance and human rights

1. Technocratic policy-making and democratization

47. This project examines the constraints on policy-making faced by new democracies as they become increasingly integrated into the global economy. Pressure to adopt neoliberal macroeconomic policies to attract international finance may encourage Governments to insulate key institutions from public scrutiny and grant policy-making powers exclusively to experts. Thus Governments may become more responsive to markets and donors than to their legislatures and citizens.

48. Three key assumptions guide the work. First, the consolidation of democracy requires institutions that can effectively articulate citizen choices and scrutinize government policies; secondly, just social policies are required if citizens are to have confidence in democratic institutions and accept democratic forms of rule; thirdly, policy makers need to establish meaningful dialogue with citizen groups, which are the real drivers and guarantors of social justice and democratization.

49. In 2001-2002, research was carried out in eight countries: Argentina, Benin, Chile, the Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Malawi and the Republic of Korea; a study on Japan was also completed.[21] The studies address the following issues: the nature and direction of economic policy reforms; the rearrangement of public bureaucracies and powers of economic institutions; the politics of democratic reforms; the structure and operations of parliaments, including finance and budget committees; and how parliaments have sought to influence the economic policy agendas of Governments.

[21] The study on Japan was published as an UNRISD Programme Paper: Toshihiro Nakamura, *A Declining Technocratic Regime: Bureaucracy, Political Parties and Interest Groups in Japan, 1950-2000*, PPDGHR 8, October 2002; others may be published following peer review.

50. The work has allowed an assessment of how countries manage the tensions between technocratic styles of governance and consolidation of democratic institutions. It has also improved understanding of the interconnections of economic and social policies, the different weights of these policies in the strategies of Governments and parties, the influence of societal or lobbying interests on the making of such policies and the trade-offs or complementarities between economic and social policies in parliamentary bargaining.

2. Public sector reform and crisis-ridden States

51. This project examines public sector reforms that have been under way in developing countries that have been exposed to protracted economic and political crises. The project is organized around two main reform initiatives: first, the introduction of market reforms in the public sectors of developing countries; and secondly, the distribution and management of power in multi-ethnic settings (see paras. 53-56).

52. Research on the first type of initiative was concluded in 2001. It examined efforts to introduce market-based incentives in the recruitment, retention and reward of individuals who work in the public service. It focused on issues of downsizing, privatization, decentralized management, pay and employment reform and use of output indicators to assess staff performance. Such reforms seek to create a flexible labour market in the public sector and to improve service delivery.[22] More in-depth research is planned on such reform initiatives in order to examine how public sector employees respond to changes in incentive structures brought about by these reforms, as well as their effects on service delivery.

3. Ethnic structure, inequality and governance of the public sector

53. This project examines the complex ways ethnic cleavages and inequalities affect social cohesion or consensus in the public sector under conditions of democratization; it also looks at the institutions that have emerged for managing diversity, inequality and competition. It thus takes up the second type of public sector reform initiative outlined above.

54. The research, which commenced in 2002, maps out the ethnic, class and gender cleavages in the case-study countries in order to analyse the extent to which such divisions are politicized. It examines the rules that determine selection to the civil service, party system, cabinet and parliament and assesses the extent to which socio-economic inequalities reproduce or influence patterns of inequalities in the public sector.

55. The second part of the project deals with the institutions that have emerged for managing diversity, inequality and competition. It studies, inter alia, how effective these institutions are in managing inequalities, whether institutions are geared

[22] Three UNRISD Programme Papers were published: Paul Smoke, *Fiscal Decentralization in Developing Countries: A Review of Current Concepts and Practice*, PPDGHR 2, 2001; Ole Therkildsen, *Efficiency, Accountability and Implementation: Public Sector Reform in East and Southern Africa*, PPDGHR 3, 2001; Dele Olowu, *Decentralization Policies and Practices under Structural Adjustment and Democratization in Africa*, PPDGHR 4, 2001. An edited volume containing most of the commissioned papers is being reviewed for publication. A related paper was also published: Jesse C. Ribot, *African Decentralization: Local Actors, Powers and Accountability*, PPDGHR 8, 2002.

towards achieving majoritarian or consensual outcomes and whether majoritarian institutions necessarily exclude groups on the basis of ethnicity. Socio-economic programmes of affirmative action and rules that seek to correct disproportionality in the staffing of public institutions are also examined.

56. Research is being carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Fiji, Ghana, India, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea and Tanzania. Studies are also being commissioned on a few multi-ethnic countries that have a relatively long history of democratic rule and public sector performance, in order to examine how these democracies have managed their ethnic cleavages in governing their public sectors.

IV. Advisory work

57. UNRISD staff members are called upon to act in a range of advisory roles for United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations, Governments, NGOs, research institutes and universities, in addition to their research and administrative responsibilities. Through such work, UNRISD makes substantive contributions to the thinking and programmes of other institutions and groups, while staff members benefit from the exchange of ideas and are able to network, identify potential researchers and explore funding opportunities.

58. Advisory work takes many different forms: coordinating research projects; preparing or commenting on reports and papers; developing new programmes and evaluating existing ones; acting as resource persons; acting as keynote speakers, lecturers and discussants at conferences, workshops and seminars; and serving as committee or board members. In 2001-2002, staff members carried out advisory activities on over 100 occasions. While most of this work is done on an informal basis, in some cases UNRISD is contracted by other institutions to carry out specific tasks.

V. Outreach: publications and dissemination

59. A proactive, target-driven, flexible publications and dissemination strategy is key to the success of the Institute. This entails print and electronic publications relevant for and accessible to an ever-expanding audience.

60. In June 2002, following over one year of work, a new UNRISD web site (www.unrisd.org) was launched. The new site provides up-to-date information about UNRISD projects, events, publications and news. All of the information on the new site is cross-referenced, illustrating the interlinkages among the different areas of the Institute's work. Over 200 publications and draft documents are available on the site and more are being added regularly. The site also offers an e-mail notification service; subscribers may select the frequency and topics about which they wish to be informed.

61. During the reporting period, UNRISD published 18 books,[23] 29 Programme Papers,[24] three reports,[25] two issues of UNRISD News[26] and five issues of Conference News. In addition to its normal dissemination channels, which include a thematic mailing list of over 11,000 contacts and a depository library system of over 200 public-access institutions worldwide, UNRISD strengthened its targeted dissemination in 2001-2002. As a result, over 16,500 copies of UNRISD Occasional Papers, Programme Papers and other publications were disseminated at 40 particularly relevant events around the world.

62. The references for all publications will be found in the footnotes to the present report.

VI. Research assistants and graduate student programme

63. Each year, UNRISD offers a limited number of outstanding graduate students from around the world the opportunity to gain experience in an international research setting. Candidates are selected on the basis of their academic experience and interests and work under the guidance of an UNRISD research coordinator for a minimum of two months. They undertake research in areas of concern to the Institute and assist in preparing background papers and reports, monitor developments worldwide that relate to the UNRISD programme of activities and

---

[23] Those not cited elsewhere in this report are: Maxine Molyneux and Shahra Razavi (eds.), *Gender Justice, Development and Rights*, Oxford University Press, 2002; Carol Miller and Jessica Vivian (eds.), *Women's Employment in the Textile Manufacturing Sectors of Bangladesh and Morocco*, UNRISD with UNDP, 2002; Eboe Hutchful, *Ghana's Adjustment Experience: The Paradox of Reform*, James Currey Ltd., Oxford and Heinemann, 2002; Krishna B. Ghimire (ed.), *The Native Tourist: Mass Tourism within Developing Countries*, UNRISD and Earthscan Publications Ltd., 2001; UNRISD, *Visible Hands: Taking Responsibility for Social Development (Arabic edition)*, ESCWA, 2002; UNRISD, *Visible Hands: Taking Responsibility for Social Development (Russian edition)*, Russian Academy of Sciences, 2001; UNRISD, *La mano visible: asumir la responsabilidad por el desarrollo social*, Geneva, 2001; UNRISD, *Mains visibles: assumer la responsabilité du développement social*, Geneva, 2001.

[24] Those not cited elsewhere in this report are: Momar-Coumba Diop, *Les politiques sociales en Afrique de l'Ouest: quels changements depuis le Sommet de Copenhague? Synthèse des études de cas (Bénin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Sénégal)*, PPSPD 5, 2001, Ha-Joon Chang, *Breaking the Mould: An Institutionalist Political Economy Alternative to the Neoliberal Theory of the Market and the State*, PPSPD 6, 2001; Francis Akindès, *Dynamique de la politique sociale en Côte d'Ivoire*, PPSPD 8, 2001; Ramya Subrahmanian, *Gender and Education: A Review of Issues for Social Policy*, PPSPD 9, 2002; Joe Foweraker, *Grassroots Movements, Political Activism and Social Development in Latin America: A Comparison of Chile and Brazil*, PPCSSM 4, 2001; Nadje S. Al-Ali, *Women's Movements in Egypt with Selected References to Turkey*, PPCSSM 5, 2002; Yash Ghai, *Human Rights and Social Development: Toward Democratization and Social Justice*, PPDGHR 5, 2001; Parvin Paidar, *Gender of Democracy: The Encounter between Feminism and Reformism in Contemporary Iran*, PPDGHR 6, 2001; Anne Phillips, *Multiculturalism, Universalism and the Claims of Democracy*, PPDGHR 7, 2001; Maxine Molyneux and Shahra Razavi, *Gender Justice, Development and Rights*, PPDGHR 10, 2002; Solon L. Barraclough, *Toward Integrated and Sustainable Development?*, PPOC 1, 2001.

[25] Those not cited elsewhere in this report are: *UNRISD 2000+: comment l'Institute envisage son avenir*, Geneva, 2002; *UNRISD 2000+: Una perspectiva sobre el futuro del Instituto*, Geneva, 2002.

[26] The Institute's newsletter is published in English, French and Spanish: *UNRISD News* No. 24, Spring/Summer 2001; *UNRISD News* No. 25, Autumn/Winter 2002.

assist in the preparation of conferences, seminars, workshops, missions and other project activities.

64. In 2001-2002, 21 young scholars from Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Italy, Peru, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Togo, the United Kingdom and the United States worked at the Institute.

VII. Financial situation

65. Although it is part of the United Nations system, UNRISD finances all of its activities through voluntary contributions.

66. The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom provide core funding to the Institute, which amounted to around $2.2 million per year in 2001-2002. Funds received from a variety of Governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies and foundations to carry out work on particular projects and special events averaged approximately $800,000 per year during the same period. This represents a positive trend in securing funding for the Institute's activities. The goal of UNRISD fund-raising efforts is to achieve a one-to-one ratio between core and project funding.